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Ohio EPA Issues Final Air Permits for Franklin Co. BioEnergy Facility Expansion

Ohio EPA has issued final air permits to Central Ohio BioEnergy (formerly known as quasar Energy and Schmack BioEnergy LLC), located at 2500 Jackson Pike, Columbus. The first permit modifies the operation of a smaller biogas engine and outdoor receiving areas, and the second permit allows expansion of the anaerobic digester system.

Ohio EPA held a public hearing on Feb. 27, 2012, to answer questions and accept public comments about the draft permits. Ohio EPA considered those comments before issuing the final air permits. These permits establish emission limits that comply with federal and state air pollution control standards, laws and regulations and protect public health and the environment.

The permits allow the company to install a second emergency flare and 2.5-million-gallon digester tank as part of its anaerobic digester system expansion. The facility will continue venting air in the system through an additional biofilter to minimize possible odors.

Facility-wide emissions will increase approximately 11 tons per year (TPY) of carbon monoxide, 16 TPY of sulfur dioxide, five TPY of nitrogen oxides, 26 TPY of volatile organic compounds and one TPY of particulate matter. Consistent with current facility operations, actual emissions are expected to be less than maximum permitted emissions.

The final air permits are available [online](#). Also, arrangements can be made to review and/or copy the permits and related material at Ohio EPA's Central District Office (50 W. Town St., Suite 700, Columbus) by first calling (614) 728-3778 or (800) 686-2330.

Issuance of the air permits can be appealed to the [Ohio Environmental Review Appeals Commission \(ERAC\)](#). Appeals generally must be filed within 30 days of issuing the final action; therefore, Ohio EPA recommends that anyone wishing to file an appeal contact ERAC at (614) 466-8950 for more information.

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